

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 778

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT, ETRD, YO

SUBJECT: GENERALIZED TARIFF PREFERENCES

REF: STATE 216431

FOLLOWING MAY BE HELPFUL TO DEPT IN ITS EFFORTS MODIFY
TITLE V OF TRADE REFORM ACT AS REPORTED REFTEL:

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT EXCLUSION OF YUGOSLAVIA FROM GENERALIZED
TARIFF PREFERENCE ARRANGEMENT UNDER TITLE V OF TRADE REFORM ACT WOULD
HAVE HIGHLY UNFAVORABLE EFFECT ON US-YUGOSLAV BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND
OVERALL RELATIONS, AND SEVERELY REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION
WITH YUGOSLAVS (AS ONE OF LEADERS OF LDC'S) IN FORTHCOMING GENEVA
MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. SENIOR YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY POINTED OUT THAT EARLY
ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ARRANGEMENT IS KEY FACTOR FOR
FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF US-YUGOSLAV TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

3. THIS POINT WAS HIGHLIGHTED DURING VISITS TO YUGOSLAVIA BY
SECRETARIES SHULTZ AND DENT, AND AMBASSADOR EBERLE. YUGOSLAVS WERE
ASSURED THAT U.S. FIRMLY COMMITTED TO GENERALIZED PREFERENCES FOR
LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND THAT THERE WAS EVERY EXPECTATION
YUGOSLAVIA WOULD QUALIFY AND BENEFIT FROM US GENERALIZED PREFERENCE
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SCHEME. AMBASSADOR GAVE SIMILAR ASSURANCES TO VICE PREMIER AS LATE AS

LAST WEEKEND IN CONVERSATION AT WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING
IN DUBROVNIK.

4. EVEN IF PROVISION REGARDING COMMUNIST COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY
IS INCLUDED IN ACT, THERE IS AMPLE LEGISLATIVE PRECEDENT FOR
SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR YUGOSLAVIA. SUCH SPECIAL TREATMENT CONTINUES
TO BE WARRANTED, BASED ON YUGOSLAV DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:
INDEPENDENCE; ABSENCE OF SOVIET DOMINATION; MARKET ECONOMY;
FREEDOM FROM RESTRICTIONS ON EMIGRATION; LDC STATUS; AND STRONG
WESTERN ORIENTATION IN TRADE AND FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS.
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